

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSF-01 EB-07 HEW-04 COME-00 /025 W
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R 061935Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7875

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, DR

SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER

REF: STATE 177008

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL, ECON OFF MET WITH DIRECTOR AND OTHER PERSONNEL OF INDOTEC, (DOMINICAN INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY) AGENCY OF THE CENTRAL BANK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO THE DR. SINCE INDOTEC WAS ONLY CREATED IN 1974, IT IS DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE ITS POTENTIAL, BUT THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT COULD ACT AS A CONDUIT FROM THE PROPOSED INTER-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER.

2. DUE TO EXTENSIVE U.S. PRESENCE (OVER 80 PERCENT OF ALL FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS U.S.) AND PROXIMITY TO U.S., DOMINICAN ENTERPRISES, PUBLIC AS WELL AS PRIVATE, TEND TO GO DIRECTLY TO U.S. FIRMS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR TECHNOLOGY THEY ARE SEEKING, AND THIS WILL PROBABLY REMAIN THE PREDOMINANT PATTERN.

3. BY VIRTUE OF BEING AN ENTITY OF THE CENTRAL BANK, INDOTEC SHOULD BE IN A BETTER FINANCIAL POSITION THAN MANY SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, INDOTEC IS SHORT ON FUNDS. ABOUT 50 PROFESSIONALS PRESENTLY WORK FOR INDOTEC, INCLUDING SOME NON-DOMINICANS. INDOTEC HAS PROGRAMS IN CHEMISTRY, MICROBIOLOGY, INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING AND CONSULTING, QUALITY CONTROL, SCIENTIFIC TRAINING, IDENTIFICATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, AGROINDUSTRY, AND TECHNICAL INFORMAEON. ITS STATED POLICY IS TO AIM FOR LINKAGE WITH
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LOCAL INDUSTRY AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL NEEDS.

4. THERE ARE NO FIRST-RATE SCIENCE OR TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTIONS IN THE DR. VERY LITTLE EXISTS IN THE WAY OF RESEARCH OR GRADUATE PROGRAMS. THERE IS ALSO NOT RPT NOT MUCH CAPABILITY IN THOSE SCIENCES WHICH FORM THE LONG-TERM BASE FOR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT.

5. EMBASSY HAS LITTLE BASIS FOR MAKING JUDGMENT ON ROLE OF PROPOSED INTER-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER, BUT FROM DOMINICAN SCENE IT WOULD APPEAR APPROPRIATE THAT CENTER ACT PREDOMINANTLY AS A CHANNEL TO FUND RESEARCH AND TRAINING CAPABILITIES.
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